106th Congress 1st Session

Vote No. 352

November 3, 1999, 5:22 p.m.

(See other side)

YEAS (66)			NAYS (29)		NOT VOTING (4)	
Republicans Democrats (48 or 91%) (18 or 43%)		Republicans	Democrats	Republicans Democrats		
		(18 or 43%)	(5 or 9%)	(24 or 57%)	(1)	(3)
Abraham Allard Ashcroft Bennett Bond Brownback Bunning Burns Cochran Coverdell Craig Crapo DeWine Domenici Enzi Fitzgerald Frist Gorton Gramm Grams Grassley Gregg Hagel Hatch	Helms Hutchinson Hutchison Inhofe Kyl Lott Lugar Mack McConnell Murkowski Nickles Roberts Roth Santorum Sessions Shelby Smith, Bob Smith, Gordon Stevens Thomas Thompson Thurmond Voinovich Warner	Baucus Bayh Bingaman Breaux Conrad Daschle Dodd Feinstein Graham Kerrey Landrieu Lieberman Lincoln Moynihan Murray Robb Rockefeller Wyden	Campbell Collins Jeffords Snowe Specter	Akaka Biden Boxer Bryan Byrd Cleland Dorgan Durbin Edwards Feingold Harkin Hollings Johnson Kerry Lautenberg Leahy Levin Mikulski Reed Reid Sarbanes Schumer Torricelli Wellstone	1—Offic 2—Nece 3—Illne: 4—Othe SYMBO AY—Ar	r LS: mounced Yea mounced Nay red Yea

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the employment of children (age 15 years), and acceptable working conditions with respect to minimum wages, hours of work, and occupational safety and health; allowed the Secretary of Labor, the head of its national labor agency, and the head of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions-Africa Region Office (ICFTU-AFRO) access to all appropriate records and other information of all business enterprises in the country; was taking adequate measures to prevent illegal transshipment of goods; was taking adequate measures to prevent being used as a transit point for the shipment of goods in violation of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing; had at least a 90-percent domestic workforce for each exported product; had established or was establishing a market-based economy with protected property rights and an open, rules-based trading system, a democratic society, an open trading system through the elimination of barriers to United States trade, and economic policies to reduce poverty and increase the availability of health care and educational opportunities; and showed that at least 60 percent of the cost or value of the textile or apparel product came from the manufacturing of that product in Africa. Also included are incentives to follow environmental regulations, increased prohibitions and penalties against transshipment to protect American workers, and an offset for the quota elimination (the quota for textile and apparel products from the People's Republic of China for each calendar year in each product category would be reduced by the amount equal to the volume of all textile and apparel products in that product category imported from all SSA countries in the preceding calendar year, plus 5 percent of that amount). Finally, the amendment would require a review once every 3 years to ensure each country's continued compliance.

After debate, Senator Moynihan moved to table the amendment. Generally, those favoring the motion to table opposed the amendment; those opposing the motion to table favored the amendment.

Those favoring the motion to table contended:

This amendment, though its intentions are meritorious, is far too restrictive. We are particularly concerned by its citizenship requirements and its transshipment penalties. First, the citizenship requirement that would insist that 90 percent of employees at the SSA manufacturers be SSA citizens is exceptionally high and over-demanding of those companies. Many American factories do not even contain a majority of employees who are Americans, so to demand that SSA factories' employment be 90 percent SSA citizens is rather outlandish. Second, the transshipment penalties this amendment would create are much too high. This bill already will battle transshipment as it calls for all apparel goods shipped to the United States from SSA companies under this legislation to be created from American fabric and none other. Though we appreciate the intentions behind this amendment, we find it to be too restrictive and urge our colleagues to support the motion to table.

Those opposing the motion to table contended:

Our amendment would expand SSA countries' access to the American market, but it would also provide important qualifications to make sure that all the beneficial growth does not come at the expense of human development. The people of Africa would benefit greatly from this amendment because of its labor protections, human rights protections, and environmental protections, and because of its expansion of the required African percentage of value added to goods. American laborers would be protected because of increased restrictions on transshipment. This amendment is good for both African and American workers. We urge our colleagues to give it their support.